



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

DEC 06 2018

Austin Evers  
American Oversight  
1030 15th Street N.W., Suite B255  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Via email: [foia@americanoversight.org](mailto:foia@americanoversight.org)

Re: HQ-2019-00014-F

Dear Mr. Evers:

This is the final response to the request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested:

All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between (1) political appointees in the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the Under Secretary for Energy, or the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy and (2) Griffin Perry, or any employee or representative of Grey Rock Energy Partners (including, but not limited to, individuals with email addresses ending in @greyrockep.com).

Please provide all responsive records from January 20, 2017, through the date of the search.

In an October 24, 2018, phone call, confirmed via email with Mr. Brian Yanos, formerly of my office, Mr. Daniel McGrath, of your office, agreed to waive publicly available information and subscription news services. He also agreed to a search of the following custodians:

Office of the Secretary

- Rick Perry
- Dan Brouillette
- Brian McCormack
- Dan Wilmot
- Sean Cunningham

Office of the Under Secretary

- Mark Menezes



- Sophia Varnasidis
- Allan Webster

Office of Fossil Energy

- Steven Winberg
- Mark Maddox
- Douglas Matheney

In an October 24, 2018, email with Mr. Brian Yanos, formerly of my office, Mr. Daniel McGrath, of your office, agreed to a search using the following search terms:

- Griffin
- “Matt Miller”
- Lazarine
- Eads
- Darden

Your request has been assigned to DOE’s Office of the Executive Secretariat (ES) and the Office of Fossil Energy (FE) to conduct a search of their files for responsive documents. DOE started its search on October 30, 2018, which is the cut-off date for responsive documents. DOE completed its search but did not locate any documents responsive to your request.

Therefore, pursuant to Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 1004.4(d), I am unable to provide any responsive documents for ES or FE. Pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.7(b)(2), I am responsible for the determination that no responsive records exist in those offices.

The adequacy of the search may be appealed within 90 calendar days from your receipt of this letter pursuant to 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8. Appeals should be addressed to Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1, L’Enfant Plaza, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585-1615. The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a FOIA appeal is being made. You may also submit your appeal by e-mail to [OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov](mailto:OHA.filings@hq.doe.gov), including the phrase “Freedom of Information Appeal” in the subject line. (This is the method preferred by the Office of Hearings and Appeals.) The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C.F.R. § 1004.8, including a copy of the determination letter. Thereafter, judicial review will be available to you in the Federal District Court either (1) in the district where you reside, (2) where you have your principal place of business, (3) where DOE’s records are situated, or (4) in the District of Columbia.

You may contact DOE’s FOIA Public Liaison, Alexander Morris, FOIA Officer, Office of Public Information, at 202-586-5955, or by mail at MA-46 Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration,

8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The FOIA provides for the assessment of fees for the processing of requests. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(i); *see also* 10 C.F.R. § 1004.9(a). In our October 15, 2018, letter you were informed your request was placed in the “other” category for fee purposes. Requesters in this category are entitled to two free hours of search time and are provided 100 pages at no cost. In that same letter, you were informed that your request for a fee waiver was granted. Thus, no fees will be charged for processing your request.

If you have any questions about the processing of the request or this letter, you may contact Ms. Stephanie Ostrowski or me at:

MA-46/Forrestal Building  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585  
(202) 586-1355

I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Morris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alexander C. Morris  
FOIA Officer  
Office of Public Information